

Congressman Edwards believes we must maintain our quality health care system in the United States while reducing costs and ensuring that all hardworking families have access to affordable coverage. Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured persons of any state in the nation, with over 25% of Texans lacking healthcare. Those without coverage are more likely to utilize expensive care in emergency rooms, driving up the price of health insurance coverage for everyone, which is why Congressman Edwards believes that it is important to provide affordable coverage for all Americans.

Congressman Edwards has fought to ensure coverage for children of working families and our senior citizens. Chet is a member of the Rural Healthcare Caucus, and works to make certain that those living in rural areas have access to the providers and specialists that they need.

- Congressman Edwards supported the expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which would grant insurance to 490,000 additional eligible children in the state of Texas alone who would otherwise go without care.

Congressman Edwards supported a budget resolution that includes a long term fix for physicians facing substantial rate cuts for their Medicare and Medicaid patients. This ensures that physicians will not be forced to stop taking Medicare and Medicaid and patients will not have to search for new providers.

- Congressman Edwards favors cracking down on lawyers who file frivolous medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up costs.
- He supports legislation to stop big pharmaceutical drug companies from unfairly charging Americans twice the price for the same drugs sold in Mexico and Canada.
- He thinks seniors should have a prescription drug plan that doesn't force them into HMOs that prohibit their choice of doctors.
- He wants to encourage small businesses to be able to join health alliances, so they can reduce high health insurance premiums for employees.

Congressman Edwards does not support a single-payer, government-run healthcare system and believes that people should have the right to select their own insurance. He will support health reform that provides an opportunity for more individuals and families to purchase their own insurance, and includes an incentive for businesses to provide healthcare for their employees and families.

Congressman Edwards has cosponsored pieces of healthcare legislation during the 111th Congress that would: increase the number of primary care physicians across the United States, ensure that patients at long term care facilities are being treated by qualified caregivers, and more.

Protecting Medicare

Medicare has done more for seniors' independence, health and financial security than almost any other federal initiative. Chet strongly believes Medicare must be protected for future generations.

Any solution to the challenges facing Medicare today must strengthen the program by protecting guaranteed

Any thoughts? Comments? Questions? Let us know what you [think](#).

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